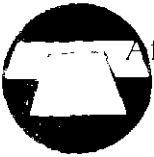


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96-45

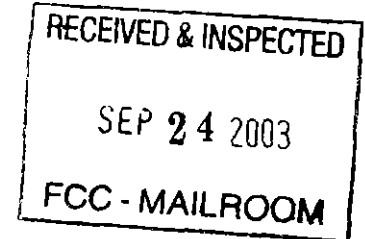
Tel (540) 461-2131  
Fax (540) 461-1989



Affiliate

CHARTERED 1905  
**HIGHLAND TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE**

P.O. BOX 340  
MONTEREY, VIRGINIA 24465



September 17, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: ANNUAL CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR UNIVERSAL SERVICE  
FUNDING

Dear Ms. Dortch:

In compliance with the Federal Communications Commission's Order released May 23, 2001, Highland Telephone Cooperative wishes to submit the enclosed affidavit to be used as certification for eligibility of universal service support. CC Document No 96-45 is the number assigned to this order.

Feel free to contact me if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

Ruth Newman  
Office Manager

Enclosure

cc Irene Flannery --Universal Service Administrative Company  
2120 L Street, NW, STE 600  
Washington, DC 20037

No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABOVE \_\_\_\_\_



USAC Affidavit

CHARTERED 1905

# HIGHLAND TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE

P. O. BOX 347  
MONTEREY, VIRGINIA 24465

CC DOCKET NO. 96-45

Tel: (540) 468-2131  
Fax: (540) 468-1389

## **AFFIDAVIT OF OLIN R. SPONAUGLE IN SUPPORT OF HIGHLAND TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE'S USE OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT**

STATE OF VIRGINIA

COUNTY OF HIGHLAND

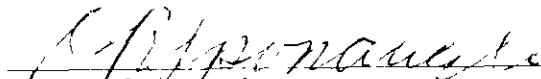
I, Olin R. Sponaugle, declare as follows:

1. I am president of Highland Telephone Cooperative and am authorized to give this affidavit on its behalf. This affidavit is being given to support the certification of the use of federal universal service funds for 2004 as required by 47 C.F.R. [§ 54.313/ § 54.314].

2. Under 47 C.F.R. [§ 54.313/ § 54.314], the Cooperative is required to submit an annual certification to the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") and the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC"), certifying that rural incumbent local exchange carriers and/or eligible telecommunications carriers serving lines in the service area of a rural incumbent local exchange carrier within the Commonwealth of Virginia will use federal high-cost universal service support in a manner consistent with section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "Act"), 47 U.S.C. § 254(e). Absent such certification, such carriers will not receive universal service support. In order for carriers to receive federal support beginning January 1 of each year, the Commission's certification must be filed with the FCC and the USAC by October 1 of the preceding year.

3. Highland Telephone Cooperative hereby certifies that the federal high-cost universal support Highland Telephone Cooperative will receive in 2004 will be used for the services and functionalities outlined in 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a), and that it will only use the federal high-cost support it receives for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which such support is intended, consistent with section 254(e) of the Act.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT

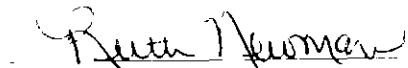
  
Olin R. Sponaugle

Title President

**HIGHLAND TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE**

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16 day of September, 2003

My commission expires 10/31/2006

  
Notary Public